

IFW

Attorney's Docket 008312-0305111
Client Reference: T4HT-03S0786-1



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re PATENT APPLICATION of:
YAMAGUCHI et al.

Confirmation Number: 6993

Application No.: 10/624,669

Group Art Unit: 2854

Filed: July 23, 2003

Examiner: Hamdan, Wasseem H.

For: IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT TRANSMITTAL

Transmitted herewith is an amendment/response for this application.

FEES

The fee for claims and extension of time (37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17) has been calculated as shown below:


| | CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT | HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR | PRESENT EXTRA | RATE | ADDIT. FEE |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|
| TOTAL | 30 | - 30 | = 0 | X \$ 18.00 | = \$ 0.00 |
| INDEP. | 8 | - 8 | = 0 | X \$ 88.00 | = \$ 0.00 |
| FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM | | | | + \$ 300.00 | = \$ 0.00 |
| TOTAL ADDITIONAL CLAIM FEE | | | | | \$ 0.00 |
| GRAND TOTAL | | | | | \$ 0.00 |

YAMAGUCHI et al. - - 10/624,669
Client/Matter: 008312-0305111

FEE PAYMENT

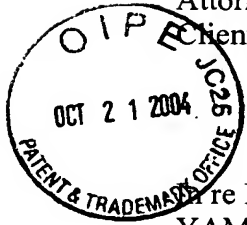
Authorization is hereby made to charge the amount of \$0.00 to Deposit Account No. 033975. Charge any additional fees required by this paper or credit any overpayment in the manner authorized above. A duplicate of this paper is attached.

Date: October 21, 2004
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Sir:

In reply to the Election of Species Requirement dated September 21, 2004, Applicants hereby provisionally elect Species I. This election is made with traverse. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-17 read on the elected species.

It is respectfully submitted that the entire application may be searched and examined without a serious burden and that the criteria for a proper restriction requirement set forth in MPEP §803 has not been satisfied. For example, each of independent method claims 1, 2, 13 and 15 recites performing first pre-processing, performing second pre-processing, and performing embedding processing of creating composite image information by embedding sub-information in the main image information. As another example, each of independent apparatus claims 15, 16, 17 and 18 recites an embedding processing section which embeds sub-information in main image information. Accordingly, the search and examination of the entire application requires the search and examination for, at least, these features.

It is also respectfully submitted that the Election of Species Requirement should be withdrawn in order to prevent duplicative examination by the Patent Office and unnecessary expense to Applicants.

YAMAGUCHI ET AL. -- 10/624,669
Client/Matter: 008312-0305111

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. Darling", is written over the printed name.

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